

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Teleconference Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine met via teleconference on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. The following members were present:

Board Members Present

Dr. Larry Corry, DVM, Chair
Dr. Henry Bohn, DVM, Vice Chair
Dr. Beckey Malphus, DVM, Board Member
Dr. Matthew Bradley, DVM, Board Member
Dr. Wendy Cuevas, DACVPM, Board Member
Mr. Thomas Culpepper, Consumer Board Member

Staff Present

Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor

Attorney General's Office

Betsy Cohen, Assistant Attorney General

Board Members Absent

No members absent.

Visitors Present

Dr. Jill Lancaster, DVM, President, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)
Kenneth Bunn, Zoetis
Dr. Susan Blevins, Executive Director, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)

Call to Order: Dr. Corry established a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda Dr. Malphus motioned, Mr. Culpepper seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Open Session Board Minutes

1. February 12, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Culpepper motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the February 12, 2020 open session Board meeting minutes as amended.

Discussion – Preemptive Response to Business Closures

Dr. Cuevas addressed the Board in regards to the correspondence sent to Governor Kemp's Office from GVMA requesting the inclusion of Veterinarians as essential businesses and exempt from potential mandatory closures. She requested that an email notification be sent from the Board to all licensees regarding their request as well as to refer licensees to the GVMA website for updates and a daily report the association will be generating.

Ms. Price shared with the Board that with the recent move to teleworking for PLB staff, IT will not be able to execute a mass email immediately to all licensees, and the process could potentially be delayed until the end of next week. She stated that a notification can be posted on the home page of the Veterinary Medicine website.

Dr. Bradley motioned, Dr. Bohn seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Dr. Cuevas to draft language for staff to add to the Board webpage in regards to GVMA's preemptive response to business closures.

Discussion – Emergency Rule for Requirements in Board Rule 700-7-.03(a)(1)

The Board addressed the current restrictions from the public health crises and licensees' ability to obtain one hour of in-person LEAP credit required for renewal of licensure. After discussing legal options, Dr. Malphus motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the following motion:

Upon finding that the coronavirus pandemic is of imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare; and, upon Governor Kemp's executive order declaring a public health emergency in the state of Georgia; the Board adopts the amended version of Board Rule 700-7-.0,1-.03 to allow VETs and VET Techs who apply to renew licenses expiring December 31, 2020, in accordance with the established renewal periods, the duration of the state of emergency and up to 120 days thereafter, to complete the CE requirements outlined within the rule; and, promptly refers the amendment to the Governor's Office for review.

Dr. Bohn motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that the economic impact of the rule amendment and the cost on any licensee or business to comply, cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative and ensure public safety.

Executive Session Board Minutes

1. February 12, 2020 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Bohn motioned, Mr. Culpepper seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the February 12, 2020 executive session Board meeting minutes as amended.

Miscellaneous Discussion

1. Telehealth

Dr. Cuevas addressed the Board regarding recent inquiries GVMA has received about the use of telehealth during the public health crises. The Board determined that an established and current Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) must be present and any amendments to the requirement would not be addressed at this time.

2. Interactive Webinar LEAP CE Conversion

Dr. Bohn engaged the Board in a discussion regarding the currently approved LEAP program cancellations and the process for review and potential acceptance, of LEAP interactive webinars, in place of the one hour in-person LEAP CE requirement, due to the public health crises. The Board determined that all CE providers seeking LEAP approval must submit a full and complete CE Provider Application for Cognizant review. The requirement applies to those programs previously approved and cancelled due to the Governor's recommendations regarding public gatherings. The CE Provider applications are to provide documentation of a defined method of presentation, and recording elements used for participation/testing for licensees seeking LEAP credit from the program. All applications are subject to requirements stipulated in the emergency adopted on today if it is approved by the Governor's Office.

Adjournment No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed by: Charlotte Mason, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: April 29, 2020

LARRY CORRY, DVM
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

ADRIENNE PRICE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR